

STATEMENT OF ANDY QUINN

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**REVIEW ON FEDERAL FARM POLICY
JUNE 11, 2001**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee:

Good afternoon. My name is Andy Quinn. I have owned and operated a corn and soybean farm near Litchfield, in Meeker County, for the past 33 years.

Thank you for holding this series of meetings to gather input from farmers.

You have heard testimony from all of the national farm groups and it is clear that there is a continued need for some type of support for agriculture. You have been presented with suggestions ranging from minor changes to the current program, to returning to supply management, to a new counter-cyclical program. The bottom line is that all of the groups agree on the need for a base-line safety net for agricultural. I will keep my comments brief.

I recommend adopting the National Corn Growers Association's proposed counter-cyclical program. However, I personally believe that NCGA's proposal is too conservative in the amount of money that should be targeted toward this program. I believe the proposal could be adjusted in two ways.

First, to provide a better safety net for farmers, I recommend that the new farm program raise the loan rate for corn and other crops to be equalized with the loan rate for soybeans. That would mean moving the corn loan rate from \$1.89 to \$2.10 per bushel. My reasoning for this is that the planting flexibility of Freedom to Farm cannot be

realized without equalizing loan rates by increasing the corn and wheat rates. This means more funding must be allocated to the NCGA's figures for a national income target.

Second, I recommend that AMTA payments in the new farm bill be equal to the average of the current farm bill. That would mean 33.2 cents per bushel.

These two changes make the program only slightly more expensive, but help reduce the risk that future emergency-aid packages will be necessary.

I want to commend the committee members for traveling to Minnesota and for making a concerted effort to really listen to perspectives from throughout America's farm community. Over the past year, you have received volumes of information from the commodity groups in the country. They have brought before you valuable ideas and input and I applaud their efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to present my own personal vision for the federal farm program. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.

Thank you.